

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MANAGERS OF THE

S O C I E T Y

FOR THE

Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents,

TO

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE,

AND THE

CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

NEW YORK:

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MATRON,
MARIA OSGOOD.

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1752

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ANNA M. ROBERT,		ELLEN KREBS,
ELIZABETH U. WILLIS,		MARIA A. NEEFUS,
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MARY LYON,		ANNA M. MARSHALL,
ANNA UNDERHILL,		HANNAH HART,
ELIZABETH WOODWARD,		MARY E. HINMAN,
MELISSA P. DODGE,		ELIZABETH CROMWELL.

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Honorable the Legislature of the State, and the Corporation of the City of New York:

THE Managers of the Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents, in the City of New York, in conformity with the provisions of their Act of Incorporation, passed 29th March, 1824, respectfully

R E P O R T :

That the whole number of children received into the House of Refuge since its opening in 1825, is.....6,637

That the number of children in the House on the 1st of January, 1855. was..... 419

There were received during the year 1855..... 418

837

The number remaining on the 1st of January, 1856, is. . . .

549

Leaving the number disposed of during 1855.....

288

The particulars required by the Act referred to, as to whence these children were received, their several ages, and how they have been disposed of, will appear in the Superintendent's statement in the Appendix.

The Superintendent's Report in the Appendix is also referred to as exhibiting the amount of work done by the inmates. It will be remembered that owing to the removal

of the Institution to its present location, in November, 1854, the contracts for the labor of the boys were necessarily given up, and were not renewed until after the commencement of the year just closed. During the year contracts have been entered into upon the usual terms, for the labor of the boys in making and caning chair seats, in the manufacture of shoes, and in wire weaving and wire work generally. At the present time we have employed in the shoe shop, 210; in the chair shop, 150; and in the wire department, 40; the latter branch of industry having been introduced in September last. The contractors were not, however, able to employ more than about one-half of the number which we could supply until nearly the close of the year, so that our revenue from this source has been for the past year very materially reduced, besides the great disadvantage to the boys themselves in not being subjected to that wholesome moral discipline, which in the opinion of the Managers is essentially connected with the exercise of industry.

During the year the boys, not employed in the shops and in the necessary work of the House, have been engaged in grading and regulating the grounds connected with the establishment, which are now so far improved, that we hope in the course of another year to give our front on the river a more agreeable and ornamental aspect, while at the same time a portion of the land can be advantageously used in the cultivation of the vegetables for the House.

The girls as heretofore have been employed in the domestic industry of the House, being thus trained in habits of industry and prepared for usefulness in families, and for the care of their own households hereafter.

By reference to the Teachers' Reports of the Boys' and Girls' Schools, it will be seen that the instruction of the children has been conducted with proper care and a due regard to the preparation of their minds for the duties and stations to which they may be called on leaving the Institution.

The Chaplain of the House, Rev. Richard Horton, has furnished a highly interesting report, presenting a view of the religious instruction afforded to the children on the Sabbath, by divine service in the chapel, and Sunday School exercises in the school rooms of each department. It is the duty of each manager in rotation, to attend on the Sabbath at the religious services of the House, and it is highly gratifying to the managers to bear testimony to the fidelity of Mr. Horton and of his fellow laborers in this "labor of love" in the Sunday School, as also to commend the attention, decorum and interest manifested on the part of the children on these occasions.

There has been no change during the past year in that general good health of the inmates, which has with rare exceptions heretofore characterised our House. The report of Dr. Whittelsey in the Appendix, exhibits but few cases of severe illness, and only one death during the year, fully justifying the hope expressed by himself and felt by the Managers, that the site now secured would prove salubrious, and "that the thorough ventilation of the building with its spacious and airy apartments would in a great measure exempt us in a sanitary point of view from evils incident to and too generally unavoidable in all large institutions."

Among the officers of the House there have been several changes during the year, and necessarily there has been a considerable addition to the employés required for the efficient management of the Institution. We still have the benefit of the services of our faithful Superintendent, John W. Ketcham, as also those of his able assistant, Israel C. Jones. Mr. E. H. Hallock continues in charge of the Boy's School as Principal, assisted by Messrs. Jones and Lee, and Miss Keyes, the latter being employed both in the Boys' and Girls' Schools. There is a vacancy in the former, owing to the recent resignation of Mr. Duryea, 3d assistant teacher. The employment of a female teacher for the lowest class in

the Boys' School, commenced this year as an experiment, has, we think, been attended with the most satisfactory results. The softening and elevating influences of female training have been very evident among the boys, and their improvement, mentally and morally, highly gratifying. In the Female Department, Mrs. Maria Osgood has been appointed Matron, Miss Ives having resigned early in the year. The other officers in this department continue in the faithful discharge of their respective duties, as at the commencement of the year. As remarked in the last annual report, "the enlargement of the institution, the character of the location, the extent of the premises and the new arrangements rendered practicable by the improved plan of the buildings, demanded many changes," among which was the increase of the working force required by the necessities of the House. Only such, however, have been added as were absolutely necessary from the changes above stated, and in every instance the Managers have had due regard to that economy which they have ever striven to observe in all the concerns of the institution.

The labors of the Ladies' Committee have been continued during the past year, though at considerable sacrifice of time and comfort, owing to the increased distance of the House from the city. They, in common with the managers, have to lament the death, during the past year of one of their number, Mrs. Sarah C. Hawxhurst, whose connection with the Refuge dates almost from its commencement, and whose devotion and long continued services as one of the Ladies' Committee, merit this tribute of respect at our hands. Mrs. Hawxhurst exerted a most happy influence upon the unfortunate and misguided objects of our care, and by her mild and persuasive counsels, her pious and gentle teachings leading them to better thoughts, essentially aided them in the path of reform. The Managers confidently rely upon the continuance of her associates in this good work, and as in the

new arrangement necessary upon the completion of the Girls' House, their labors will be of the highest value, the co-operation of the Ladies' Committee will be anxiously sought and highly estimated, as no doubt it will be cheerfully and freely rendered.

As stated in our report of last year, the subject pressing at that time with most urgency upon the managers, was the erection of the Girls' House, the importance and necessity of which for the complete organization of the institution, has not for a moment been lost sight of. Acting upon these considerations, the subject was pressed upon the attention of the Legislature of the last year, and an appropriation of \$35,000 was procured. In accordance with the provisions of the law appropriating the money, the rear building of the Female House has been erected during the year, and will be ready for occupation early in the coming spring. The foundations of the main building have also been laid and the walls of the basement so far advanced as to be ready for the superstructure as soon as the proper means for the prosecution of the work shall be provided. As, however the rear building is contemplated only for the wash and work rooms, the school apartments, hospitals, and dining halls of the Female Department, the necessity for the completion of the main building is the same as heretofore, as the dormitories and apartments for the officers are all necessarily in the latter, and the removal of the girls from the south wing of the Boys' House, with the proposed classification of both boys and girls, the great feature of our new establishment, cannot be fully carried out until the Female House be entirely arranged and finished in all its parts. We can but repeat in the language of a previous report "the only reliance of the Managers is on the liberal action of the Honorable the Legislature, as all their other resources are exhausted." They will present this subject to the Legislature at the present session, claiming a due portion of the State funds, deeming the Institution en-

titled to such as the "care taker, educator and reformer of its juvenile vagrants and offenders."

The experience of the first year in our new location, thus far, justifies the belief that the revised plan of conducting the business of the institution, adopted after the removal, will work as efficiently as the former one. The several committees have regularly and punctually attended to their respective duties, and the minutes of their proceedings are statedly presented, and read at the meeting of the Board each month, together with the daily journal of the Superintendant, the whole conduct and condition of the institution being thus passed in review before the Managers, monthly. The new rules and regulations for the government and discipline of the inmates, have as yet, been, but partially carried into effect, as the girls are now occupying the south-wing of the Boys' House, and no entire separation of the different classes can therefore be made.

The Treasurer's report of receipts and disbursements for the ordinary support of the institution, herewith annexed, exhibits a large deficiency in the revenue to meet the expenses. The probability of a considerable deficit was alluded to in the annual report of last year, but at that period, so large an increase in the number of inmates was not anticipated. The high prices of provisions, constituting always the heaviest expenditure in our classification of items, are severely felt. The institution can no longer be sustained without a large addition to its means of support. The deficit for the past year is fully \$11,000, and as the number of inmates still further increases, there will be required a still larger sum for their maintenance.

The amount appropriated by the State for the support of the House of Refuge, \$8,000 per annum, has not varied since the same was first granted, shortly after its establishment, say a period of twenty-five years. Attention is particularly requested to the economy with which so large an institution

has been maintained. There has been no application made, either to the Legislature of the State, or the Common Council of the city of New York, for a deficiency of any sort during this long period. The necessity of increasing the support of the House, has recently been laid before the latter body, who have granted our application, doubling the amount heretofore received, directly from the City Treasury, \$4,000 per annum, which increase will be available for the ensuing year. The number of inmates at the time the sum of \$8,000 per annum, for this purpose was first appropriated, by the Legislature of the State, was less than 200. The number is now 550, and in a few weeks, will, probably, reach 600, being more than three-fold the number at that date. This simple statement of facts demonstrates the necessity of increasing the annual appropriation. The Managers will at an early day, present to the Legislature an application for this object, and also for an appropriation to meet the deficits of the past year and the preceding one, as well as a balance of debt, not very considerable, remaining unpaid and unprovided for, on the building contracts.

The report of the Treasurer of the Building Fund, also annexed, exhibits the sums expended during the year for building purposes, and the sums received from the Legislature. The accounts for building are kept entirely distinct from those embracing the revenue and expenditures for ordinary support.

Upon a retrospect of the past year, the Managers have great cause for thankfulness, in the present condition of the Institution, the general preservation of the health of the children, their progress in mental and moral improvement, and in the many evidences of permanent reform, afforded by those of its inmates, who have been sent forth into the community, to take part in the active duties of life, as good and honorable citizens. For proof of this latter encouraging feature, we would call attention to the extracts from the let-

ters of the boys' and girls', as also from those of the individuals to whom they have been apprenticed, to be found in the appendix, which are more than ordinarily interesting.

The Managers cannot but hope, that here, in our present very beautiful and appropriate location, removed from all apprehension of being crowded upon by our fast growing city, separated by the flowing river from its impure, and unhealthy influences, both moral and physical, and breathing an untainted atmosphere, our inmates may, under the guidance and teaching of a well ordered discipline, administered by faithful officers, with Heaven's blessing, more rapidly and thoroughly imbibe the principles necessary to secure their future well-being, and be better prepared to enter upon the trials and resist the temptations, for the proper encounter of which their previous associations had so inadequately fitted them.

New York, January 4. 1856.

APPENDIX.

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

*To the Board of Managers of the Society for the Reformation of
Juvenile Delinquents :*

The following is respectfully submitted as the Medical Report of the Refuge for the year 1855 :

But few cases of disease have appeared among the inmates of the Refuge during the past year, requiring medical aid, most of which have been mild in character and of short duration.

The spacious Hospital rooms have been comparatively unoccupied, there having seldom been more than one or two patients confined at a time.

Three cases of scarlet fever have occurred, two of which were from among the Boys, and one from among the Girls; it has not assumed an epidemic form, and it is hoped no new cases will appear.

There has been but one death (a colored boy, who died of consumption) in the institution the past year.

The sanitary condition of the Refuge at large must be highly gratifying to the Managers, as well as to all interested in this noble charity. Not only has there been a remarkable exemption from

disease in the institution, but there has been manifest in the appearance of the inmates a degree of vigorous health sufficient to secure immunity from ordinary morbid influences, which are calculated to develop disease.

Among the causes operating in securing such a desirable condition as well as exemption from particular disease, it may be proper to enumerate, first—the location of the building is free from miasma, (the poison producing intermittent fever) which exists on either side of the Island. No case of this disease has occurred not distinctly traceable to a recent residence in a miasmatic district, or to a former attack, the poison remaining, as it often does, latent in the system. Security from this disease alone to a public institution is of incalculable importance.

To the superior ventilation of the dormitories may be credited a very large share of the health enjoyed by the children, which so effectually prevents the development of disease, a condition rarely attained to the same extent in public institutions.

Among the particular diseases thus obviated in a great degree, may be noticed, Ophthalmia in its various forms; the danger of its prevalence as an epidemic being greatly lessened. For the past year there have been but six cases requiring special treatment.

To the general management of the House, including the generous diet, the judicious apportioning of the time of the inmates to labor, study and recreation, much credit is also due.

HENRY N. WHITTESEY, M. D.

Randall's Island, January 1, 1856.

LADIES' REPORT.

The Ladies' Committee of the House of Refuge would respectfully acknowledge their gratification at the success that is crowning this institution of benevolence.

Their visits during the past year to its inmates have been exceedingly pleasant; and we cannot but hope profitable to those for whom they were intended.

Our hearts have frequently been cheered by the eye brightening up with hope, as we have from time to time appeared among them; and the profound attention and improvement, which have been apparent, urges us, to "Faint not, nor be weary in well doing;" but to "Sow beside all waters," looking continually to Him who alone can bless the humblest efforts of those, who would mitigate the sorrows that sin has made in our world. The Female Department is very efficiently sustained, as is evident from the perfect order of the girls, and entire neatness of the House, as well as promptness in recitations of Scripture truths.

Since our last Report, the committee have occasion to record the death of our beloved friend and helper, Mrs. Sarah C. Hawxhurst, who has for so many years labored as our first directress, and who, on every occasion, endeavored to promote the best interests of this class. Having rested from her labors, we trust her works will follow her, and that the many who have listened to her kind invitations, may be induced to turn their feet into the straight and narrow way. That the devotion which characterised her may

influence us, who are left, to do what we can for those whom poverty and crime have made their victims, is the earnest desire of this committee.

SARAH B. BROWN, *Secretary*.

New York, December 27, 1855.

TEACHER'S REPORT OF BOYS' SCHOOL.

To the Board of Managers of the Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents :

GENTLEMEN:—Another round of duties is performed; another year's history is written; and it devolves upon us to sum up its results, and place them at your disposal.

Our first object at the commencement of the year was so to arrange and classify the boys, as to secure to them habits of attention to study, to meet the wants and wishes of all, and substantially to promote the best mental and moral improvement of those intrusted to our care.

The relative standing of the pupils is designated by five different grades.

Grade First embraces those who attend to Numeration and Addition, Reading and Writing on Slates.

Grade Second, those who attend to Subtraction, Mental Arithmetic, Reading in First and Second Readers, and Writing on Slates.

Grade Third, those who attend to Multiplication, Mental Arithmetic, Outlines of Geography, Reading in Third and Fourth Readers, and Writing on Paper.

Grade Fourth, those who attend to Division, Mental Arithmetic, Geography, Outlines of History, Spelling and Defining, and Writing on Paper, Reading in Third and Fourth Readers.

Grade Fifth, those pursuing the remaining rules of the Arithmetic, according to their several attainments, Mental Arithmetic, Geography, Outlines of History, Spelling and Defining, and Writing on Paper.

During the past year 363 boys have been received into the School.

Of whom did not know the Alphabet, ...	123
Could spell easy words, ...	91
Could read easy lessons, ...	79
Could read books generally, ...	44
* Could read well, ...	26
	363

* Fourteen of these have been taught in the Refuge before.

Were unacquainted with Arithmetic, ...	237
Commenced with Subtraction, ...	46
Multiplication, ...	22
Division, ...	36
† Denominate Numbers, ...	19
† Fractions, ...	3
	363

† Seven of these have been taught in Refuge before.

There are now 474 boys in the School.

Of whom does not know the Alphabet, ...	1
Spell easy words, ...	32
Read easy lessons, ...	70
Read lessons still more difficult, ...	109
Books generally, ...	135
Read well, ...	127
	474
Are in Addition, (1st Class), ...	121
Subtraction, 2d "	90
Multiplication, 3d "	90
Division, 4th "	91
Miscellaneous Arithmetic, (5th Class), ...	82
Of which are in Denominate Numbers, ...	16
Fractions, ...	18
Decimals, ...	14
Proportion, ...	14
Cube Root, ...	20
	82

PROMOTIONS IN ARITHMETIC.

To Subtraction, (2d Class,)	194
Multiplication, 3d "	169
Division, 4th "	148
Miscellaneous Arithmetic, (5th Class)	142

The following promotions have been made in the fifth class:

To Denominate numbers, ...	142
Fractions, ...	99
Decimals, ...	95
Interest, ...	89
Profit and Loss, ...	88
Proportion, ...	69
Fellowship, ...	61
Miscellaneous Examples, ...	43
Through the Arithmetic, ...	11

PROMOTIONS IN READING.

To 2d Reader, ...	121
3d "	143
4th "	100
5th "	37

The following Tables show the attainments in Reading and Arithmetic of those who have left the Institution during the past year :

IN READING.

Of those who read in the 1st Reader, ...	35
2d "	40
3d "	55
4th "	47
5th "	55

IN ARITHMETIC.

Addition, ...	23	Interest, ...	7
Subtraction, ...	38	Proportion, ...	5
Multiplication, ...	48	Discount, ...	6
Division, ...	49	Profit and Loss, ...	2
Denominate Numbers, ...	39	Fellowship, ...	3
Fractions, ...	6	Through the Arithmetic, ...	6

212	boys	write	on	slates.
262	"	"	paper	
180	"	study	Perkins' Mental Exercises.	
173	"	"	Stoddard's Intellectual Arithmetic.	
263	"	"	Geography.	
82	"	"	History.	
193	"	have	never been taught in any school except the Refuge.	
197	"	have	never attended any Sabbath School.	
393	"	never	learned a verse of Scripture till they came to the Refuge.	

Sabbath School instruction has been conducted as usual, and reward books, tracts, the Christian Advocate and Journal, and Child's Paper have been distributed among the children, the influence of which will be felt, no doubt, in years to come.

More than (30,000) thirty thousand Scripture verses have been thoroughly committed to memory during the past year. More than (2,000) two thousand interesting books have been distributed among the boys as rewards for committing Scripture verses.

Our library needs replenishing. I have never met with a class of boys that seemed to take more interest in reading; but we need something new to enliven that interest, and if possible to make the reading more effectual.

It is with much satisfaction that we testify to the interest manifested by the School Committee, to the hearty acquiescence in all our plans, and to the promptness with which they have seconded all our efforts, to promote the general welfare of the School.

The City Superintendents, Messrs. S. S. Randall and Joseph McKeen have twice visited and examined our Schools.

In reviewing the past year we find much cause for gratitude and encouragement. We have labored for those, who, but for this Institution, would doubtless have been lost to themselves, lost to society, and lost to the world; but now we cannot but feel that many are giving hopeful evidence that they have been stayed in their career of vice and crime; that new thoughts and better feelings are fast finding place in their bosoms, and that some of them are forming resolutions which, if strengthened by right example and timely encouragement, will be so far carried out in their lives as to make them honest, intelligent and worthy citizens.

We have found, as a general thing, in these youth, no deficiency of intellect. Their progress in the acquisition of knowledge, their readiness to receive ideas, and ability to retain them, and even their well concocted schemes and adroit plans to deceive and elude our vigilance, are all a sufficient testimony as to what they would have been, had they learned the lessons of piety from a mother's lips, or felt the cheering influences of a father's example.

Difficulties, it is true, have arisen, which at times seemed almost insurmountable. The crowded condition of the school-room, and a frequent change of teachers have at times very much impeded our progress. The completion of the Female House, however, will, we hope, remove these difficulties, and allow the employment of additional assistance, which is very much needed. To recover a class of wayward youth, coming to us with wrongly developed moral natures, ignorant, vicious and criminal, requires a great degree of kindness, forbearance, penetration, and practical discretion. We have often felt that to our experience we needed to add knowledge, and to knowledge, wisdom.

We would forget all these difficulties, however, that attend our efforts, and remember that whoever bears a working hand and a large love through the world, shall not be disappointed in the fruits of his labor. We would make our hearts glad with the thought that such a provision has been made for these neglected, misguided, unfortunate youth. How well may every erring one, as he enters this Institution, exclaim in the language of the Psalmist, "Yea, in the shadow of thy wing will I make my refuge, until these calamities be past."

E. H. HALLOCK, *Principal.*

TEACHER'S REPORT OF GIRLS' SCHOOL.

During the past year 64 girls have been received :

Of whom did not know the Alphabet, ...	30
Could spell easy words, ...	16
Could read easy lessons, ...	13
Could read in books generally, ...	11
Could read well, ...	5
Were unacquainted with Arithmetic, ...	50
Commenced with Subtraction, ...	10
Multiplication, ...	7
Division, ...	4

There are now 75 girls in the house.

Of these do not know the Alphabet, ...	2
Spell easy words, ...	14
Read in easy lessons, ...	19
Read in books generally, ...	30
Read well, ...	6
Are in Addition, ...	29
Subtraction, ...	15
Division, ...	17
Multiplication, ...	22

Sixty-six girls have been discharged.

PROMOTIONS.

In Reading,		In Arithmetic,	
From 1st to 2d Section,	30	To Subtraction, ...	48
2d to 3d “	32	Multiplication, ...	32
3d to 4th “	29	Division, ...	17
4th to 5th “	30		

Forty write on paper, and all receive instruction in Geography. Twenty-four thousand one hundred and one Scripture verses, and One thousand nine hundred and nine hymns have been committed to memory by the girls during the past year.

GENTLEMEN:—This is my second annual report of the Girls' School in the House of Refuge; and if I have not discovered genius among these erring children, I have at least found bright intelligence needing only a master hand to direct it to make it a joy and blessing forever. I have found, too, warm hearts that vibrate to the slightest touch of kindness, and respond to its gentle tones in no imperfect harmony.

If the efforts which I have made in their behalf shall cause any to seek a new life, and turn from their evil ways, how ample will be my reward.

H. GEARY, *Teacher*.

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

To the Board of Managers of the Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents.

GENTLEMEN :—It has been unusual for the Chaplain of this Institution to present an annual report, the matter appropriate to such a document having, heretofore, been embraced in the reports of the Superintendent and Teachers. Nor was it known until very recently that it was your pleasure to have one in the present instance.

The connection of the Chaplain with the operations of the House is comparatively slight. He is not a resident of the building, and is only required to perform a service on each Sabbath afternoon, and on the morning of two of the principal holidays. His acquaintance and intercourse with the inmates must, in consequence, be quite limited, and his opportunities for witnessing beneficial results from religious instructions, be equally circumscribed. Special incidents cannot, therefore, be expected as a prominent part of this, his first report.

Religious exercises by the Superintendents and Teachers, morning and evening, and at each session of the school, form a part of the daily regime of the House. Sabbath School exercises take place in the school rooms, and services are held in the chapel on the morning and afternoon of every Sabbath. The afternoon services in the chapel are under the entire control of the Chaplain, while the services in the morning are sustained by various ministerial brethren in a voluntary manner. The Sabbath School exercises are in part conducted by visitors of different denominations, mostly from the City. For the fidelity and zeal, and sacrifices of time and ease, on the part of these voluntary laborers, they are worthy of grateful mention.

Four Sabbaths during the past year we have not been present at our regular service; three in consequence of bodily or family illness, and one from being absent from the City. We have occasionally

attended the morning service and afternoon session of the Sabbath School.

The interest evinced by the children in the public exercises has often been peculiarly gratifying, and a frequent subject of remark by strangers who have been present.

The Scriptures committed to memory and recited during the past year in the male and female departments, as stated in detail in the school reports, reach a very large number. Two or three have individually recited over three thousand verses, and two or three others the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and a part of Luke, in consecutive order.

That these varied means should be employed, and so much of Divine Truth stored in the mind without some gracious results and saving benefits cannot be supposed. And though much may seem like "seed buried long in dust, hope has not been deceived;" in some cases the 'tender blade,' and e'en the 'ear' have been developed. Under the combined means referred to, there is reason to believe that a number of children have become renewed in heart as well as reformed in life. Several of such have left the Institution under very favorable circumstances; one, a female, to pursue by the aid of friends, a course of education to qualify herself for teaching, and some remain of whom it may at least be said, that their conduct is irreproachable.

It cannot be disguised that the work among a class such as the Refuge contains, is in many aspects peculiarly discouraging, yet we have but one purpose, to labor on in humble and confident dependence upon the Father of Mercies for success.

Whether a different arrangement, bringing the children under the more direct influence of the Chaplain, may be feasible or desirable, is left to the mature judgment of the Board to determine.

The uniform and marked attention and courtesy shown us while in the discharge of our duties, and on all occasions when present at the Refuge, by Members of the Board, the Superintendent and officers, merit our grateful consideration and ardent thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD HORTON, *Chaplain.*

New York, January 1, 1856.

The Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents, in account with JOSHUA S. UNDERHILL, Treasurer.

DR.

CR.

Jan. 5, 1855,	To Cash paid for Food and Provisions.....	\$18,005 38	Jan. 5, 1855,	By Balance from last year's account.....	\$471 98
"	" Clothing for the Children.....	4,231 05	"	" Cash from Contractors for Boys' Labor.....	7,393 76
"	" Fuel and Light.....	8,821 61	"	" " Theatre and Circus Licenses.....	6,942 96
Jan. 4, 1856	" Salaries.....	8,713 57	Jan. 13 1856,	" " Comptroller of the City.....	4,000
"	" Furniture.....	1,970 73	"	" " Comptroller of the State.....	8,000
"	" Building and Repairs.....	1,064 06	"	" " Board of Education.....	2,672 92
"	" Stable, Horses and Carts.....	448 20	"	" " For Carriage sold.....	121 45
"	" Werry and Boats.....	94 65	"	" " Donations and Fees.....	33 56
"	" Shrubbbery and Trees.....	70 50	"	" " From Building Fund account.....	5,000
"	" Expenses of removal.....	45 00			
"	" Hospital Expenses and Medicine.....	171 93			
"	" School Expenses.....	131 02			
"	" Postage, Books and Stationery.....	247 10			
"	" Printing Annual Reports.....	231 15			
"	" Com's Room, Incidental Expenses of Com's, Ref'g Children, Adv'g Car Fare, &c.....	543 64			
"	" Insurance.....	450 00			
			1856,		
			Jan. 3,	By Balance due the Treasurer.....	5,598 96
					\$40,243 59

JOSHUA S. UNDERHILL, *Treasurer.*

We have examined the above accounts, compared it with the warrants and vouchers, and find the same to be correct.

NEW YORK, *January 2, 1856.*

CHARLES M. LEUPP, }
ROBERT KELLY, } *Finance Committee.*

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT FOR 1855.

To the Managers of the Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents :

GENTLEMEN :—The Superintendent respectfully reports that since the establishment of the Institution in 1825, the whole number of children which have been received, is 6637. The number in the House on the 1st of January, 1855, was as follows, viz :

White Boys, ...	333	
White Girls, ...	68	
Colored Boys, ...	10	
Colored Girls, ...	8	
		419

Received during the year 1855 :

White Boys, ...	332	
White Girls, ...	53	
Colored Boys, ...	31	
Colored Girls, ...	2	
		418
		837

Of these we have disposed of :

White Boys, ...	219	
White Girls, ...	49	
Colored Boys, ...	13	
Colored Girls, ...	7	
		288

Leaving on the 1st of January, 1856 :

White Boys, ...	446	
White Girls, ...	72	
Colored Boys, ...	28	
Colored Girls, ...	3	
		549

TABLE I.

Showing the sources from which were received 418 Children during the year 1855.

	White Boys.	White Girls.	Colored Boys.	Colored Girls.	Total.
From the New York Police.....	72	19	5	0	96
“ “ “ Sessions.....	64	2	7	0	73
“ Kings County “	63	5	2	0	70
“ Albany “ “	42	5	0	0	47
“ Rensselaer “ “	30	8	2	0	40
“ Suffolk “ “	0	1	0	0	1
“ Governors of Alms House.....	7	1	0	0	8
“ Wayne County Sessions.....	0	1	0	0	1
“ Saratoga “ “	0	1	0	0	1
“ Sullivan “ “	1	0	0	0	1
“ Ulster “ “	1	0	0	0	1
“ Schoharie “ “	1	0	0	0	1
“ Oneida “ “	0	2	0	1	3
“ Westchester “ “	1	0	0	0	1
“ Monroe “ “	0	1	0	0	1
“ Greene “ “	1	0	0	0	1
Returned after having been given up to friends or indentured.....	283 49	46 7	16 15	1 1	346 72
	332	53	31	2	418

TABLE II.

Showing the Parentage of 329 White Children received during the year 1855.

American.....	61
Irish.....	205
English.....	15
German.....	29
Scotch.....	13
French.....	5
Italian.....	1

TABLE III.

Showing the Disposition made of Children during the year 1855.

	White Boys.	White Girls.	Colored Boys.	Colored Girls.	Total.
Indentured to Farmers.....	98	0	11	0	109
“ Housewifery.....	0	36	0	5	41
“ Artist.....	1	0	0	0	1
“ Dyer.....	1	0	0	0	1
“ Sailors.....	2	0	1	0	3
“ Clerkships.....	8	0	0	0	8
“ Shoemakers.....	12	0	0	0	12
“ Blacksmiths.....	5	0	0	0	5
“ Carpenters.....	3	0	0	0	3
“ Painters.....	2	0	0	0	2
“ Rigger.....	1	0	0	0	1
“ Masons.....	3	0	0	0	3
“ File Manufacture.....	2	0	0	0	2
“ Carriage Maker.....	2	0	0	0	2
“ Brick Maker.....	3	0	0	0	3
“ China Decorator.....	2	0	0	0	2
“ Butcher.....	1	0	0	0	1
“ Stone Cutter.....	1	0	0	0	1
“ Iron Founder.....	1	0	0	0	1
“ Cigar Maker.....	1	0	0	0	1
“ Tin Smith.....	1	0	0	0	1
“ Brush Maker.....	1	0	0	0	1
Discharged.....	68	13	0	2	83
Escaped.....	0	0	0	0	0
Died.....	0	0	1	0	1
	219	49	13	7	288

TABLE IV.

Showing the ages of 346 Children received during the year 1855

1 was 7 years old.	226 brought forward.
6 were 9 “	71 were 15 years old.
15 “ 10 “	39 “ 16 “
23 “ 11 “	7 “ 17 “
60 “ 12 “	3 “ 18 “
52 “ 13 “	
69 “ 14 “	346
226	Average, 13 years, 6 mos. 18 days.

TABLE V.

*Showing the Weekly Report of the number of Children in the House,
with the average for the year 1855.*

Date 1855.		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Date 1855.		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
January	5.....	343	76	419	July	6.....	367	67	434
"	12.....	347	76	423	"	13.....	368	67	435
"	19.....	350	75	425	"	20.....	370	69	439
"	26.....	355	74	429	"	27.....	365	69	434
February	2.....	355	75	430	August	3.....	368	69	437
"	9.....	364	75	439	"	10.....	379	71	450
"	16.....	366	76	442	"	17.....	384	69	453
"	23.....	370	79	449	"	24.....	385	71	456
March	2.....	373	79	452	"	31.....	389	73	462
"	9.....	383	79	462	September	9.....	394	75	469
"	16.....	391	78	469	"	14.....	396	75	471
"	23.....	390	78	468	"	21.....	405	77	482
"	30.....	387	79	466	"	28.....	409	76	485
April	6.....	387	77	464	October	5.....	419	74	493
"	13.....	384	70	454	"	12.....	424	74	498
"	20.....	381	68	449	"	19.....	430	70	500
"	27.....	373	65	438	"	26.....	434	69	503
May	4.....	369	64	433	November	2.....	439	69	508
"	11.....	369	62	431	"	9.....	444	70	514
"	18.....	368	62	430	"	16.....	449	71	520
"	25.....	369	62	431	"	23.....	453	72	525
June	1.....	365	62	427	"	30.....	452	72	524
"	8.....	364	62	426	December	7.....	458	71	529
"	15.....	371	62	433	"	14.....	463	74	537
"	22.....	365	63	428	"	21.....	468	75	543
"	29.....	366	64	430	"	28.....	471	75	546

Annual average..... $463\frac{9}{26}$

TABLE VI.

*Showing the Work done in the Female Department during the
year 1855.*

Frocks made.....	229	Towels made.....	165
Shirts ".....	1,015	Skirts ".....	170
Chemises ".....	63	Curtains ".....	10
Sheets ".....	396	Comfortables made.....	21
Aprons ".....	151	Capes ".....	9
Pillow-cases made.....	86	Handkerchiefs hemmed....	58
Bed Ticks ".....	127	Table cloths made.....	2
Stockings mended.....	9,517	Carpet balls.....pounds	197
Garments repaired.....	16,493	Stockings run.....	592
Shoes bound.....	377	Cushion covers made.....	12
Pieces washed.....	114,452		

During the year the boys have been engaged in the manufacture of shoes, chair seats, wire-cloth weaving, seive-making, &c.

A portion of them, under the direction of an appropriate officer, make and mend all their own clothes, except the shirts which are made by the girls; they also make and repair all the shoes for the male and female departments. The girls make and repair their own wearing apparel, and do all the washing for the House. The entire work of the Institution is done by the inmates under the care of judicious persons, selected for that purpose.

Although our new House, which has now been occupied more than a year, has all the conveniences necessary for the classification and comfort of the children, still, the non-completion of the Girls' House, and the necessary occupancy of a large portion of the present building by the females, has been and still is an effectual barrier to that organization and separation of the inmates which are so essential to the fulfilment of the design, in the erection of the present capacious building. The manner of this classification, and adopted at the present time, so far as it can be under present existing circumstances, is to subject the delinquents immediately on admission, to one month's probation; the conduct is closely observed and noted in all the departments, such as school, shop, yard, play-grounds, &c.; familiar conversation is held with them so as to learn their feelings in regard to the crimes they have committed, and also, to ascertain as nearly as possible the length of time they have been committing petty offences, and to what extent the moral sensibilities have been affected by their associations. Then their histories are written; all this gives a fair opportunity of forming a very correct view of their character, and at the end of the month they are stationed in one or the other of the permanent classes, to be changed only as their future conduct may require.

At present these classes only exist in regard to labor without separation. It is not deemed necessary to extend remarks, in order to exhibit the advantages of *entire separation* in classification; those who are acquainted with the necessities of such institutions, appreciate its importance. We shall therefore only look forward with *anxiety* to the time when this embarrassment to our usefulness shall be removed in raising those who, in the morning of life, have sadly

fallen in their moral rectitude; and pointing out a better way to those who have reached so deep and lasting a depravity by continued criminal offences, such being criminals, if criminals at all, by neglect.

Deeply impressed with the importance of this subject, and anxious that our efforts may produce the greatest amount of good in the cause for which we labor, we earnestly solicit the Managers to exert all the influence in their power to remove the impediment which in an eminent degree diminishes the good effects that certainly would be accomplished by the same exertions. Hoping this most important object may be obtained during the current year, it affords me much satisfaction to state, that the present moral, intellectual and physical condition of the inmates of the Institution, is comparatively far superior to its state at any former period within the past seven years, owing to the many advantages possessed by our present location and buildings, over the old and straitened ones we left fourteen months ago.

The children are now all engaged a portion of the day in some manual labor, and every incentive to study, industry, and consequent reform and preparation for future usefulness, is applied to every individual case, and we feel confident that the whole work employed to obtain the ends for which the institution was founded are being daily realized.

Our labors during the year have been materially increased, consequent upon removal to the present location, re-organization of the House as far as practicable, the incomplete state of the whole establishment, with the addition of 135 boys to our needy family; we have met with confinement, toil and difficulties in the performance of our duties, but by the aid of a kind Providence we have passed them with a good degree of satisfaction. Associated with us are faithful and energetic officers—to such we willingly accord commendation and praise; they have my warmest thanks. And again at the close of the old year and the beginning of the new, we express our grateful acknowledgments to the Managers generally for their promptness in rendering us assistance under embarrassing circumstances, and the generous aid they have afforded in promoting

the general interests of the Institution and the administration of its affairs.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN W. KETCHAM, *Superintendent.*

*House of Refuge, Randall's Island, }
January 1, 1856. }*

EXTRACTS FROM DAILY JOURNAL.

January 1st, 1855.

The family kept this as a holiday—the boys enjoyed themselves with their sports, and in partaking of the refreshments provided for them by the Managers, as is customary on such occasions—every thing passed off pleasantly.

We commence the new year with 419 children, viz.: 343 boys and 76 girls, and it is a subject which calls for gratefulness, that not one of them is confined in the hospital, or requires medical aid; trusting in a superhuman hand for our guide, we look forward to a prosperous future.

January 7th

Mr. Phayer held meeting with the children, and our chaplain, Mr. Horton, preached in the afternoon; Messrs. Blacket and Hamilton visited the Sabbath School in company with a number of friends.

January 12th.

The Executive Committee, Messrs. Kelly, Stevens and Young, made their official visit to the house this day.

The Ladies' Committee, Mrs. Dr. Krebs and Mrs Brown, visited the Girls' Department this afternoon.

Mr. Atterbury of the School Committee, accompanied by his friends, visit this day.

January 23rd.

We, this day, received an accession of six to our number, which makes 429 in the house.

February 1st.

The Indenturing Committee, Messrs. Drake, Hussey and Hoe, made their official visit this day. Mr. Sands and Mrs. Hussey, accompanied a portion of the committee, and visited the schools.

February 3rd.

Nine children were received into the house this day.

February 16th.

Mrs. Delano, of the Ladies' Committee, visited the Female Department, this afternoon.

The Executive Committee, Messrs. Kelly and Young, made their official visit to the house this day.

Mr. Downer of the School Committee, visited the schools this afternoon.

February 18th.

The Grand Jury, accompanied by Governor Tiemann of the Alms House, with a number of invited guests, visited and examined the Institution generally, this day, and expressed themselves pleased with their visit.

April 25th.

Dr. Alexander and friend of the Baltimore House of Refuge, visited this day.

Mr. Joseph McKeen, City Superintendent of Common Schools, made his semi-annual examination of the Male Department, of the school, this evening, which gave general satisfaction to those who were present. Messrs. Day and McElligot, addressed the children in a very affectionate and encouraging manner. Messrs. Atterbury, Downer, Strong and Prichard of the Board of Managers, were present: also Messrs. Hart, Reede, and a number of ladies and gentlemen, accompanied the managers to witness the examination, and all seemed gratified with the exercises.

Win. W——, visited the house yesterday, he is now in the city finishing his trade, his general appearance and deportment was very good, he states that he is doing well.

April 26th.

It is with feelings of regret, that we record the death of Mrs. Sarah C. Hawxhurst, one of our most efficient lady managers of this Institution. She always manifested a deep interest in the welfare of the children, and her visits were always pleasant and instructive to the children; her conversation with them was ever kind and affectionate, producing manifest good upon the minds of those who listened to her peculiar mode of address. She died April 23rd, aged 81 years.

The Indenturing Committee, Messrs. Russell, Drake and Hussey, made their official visit to the house this day.

May 5th.

The Executive Committee, Messrs. Kelly, Stevens and Young, made their official visit to the house this day.

The Ladies' Committee, Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Dickinson, visited the Girls' Department this afternoon.

The Board of Managers held their monthly meeting at the house, this afternoon, at 3 o'clock.

May 16th.

Mr. Downer, of the School Committee, made his official visit to the house this day.

Mr. J. Curtis, accompanied by a number of gentlemen, from Boston, visited the Institution this afternoon.

May 25th.

Mrs. Dodge, accompanied by a friend, visited the Girls' Department this morning.

The Executive Committee, Messrs. Stevens and Strong, made their official visit to the house this day.

Mr. Joseph McKeen, the City Superintendent of Common Schools, made his semi-annual examination of the Female Department and school this afternoon—the exercises were quite satisfactory. The Rev. Mr. Leeds, of Ohio, Mr. H. Day and Mr. McKeen made addresses to the children.

Of the managers, Messrs. Stevens, Strong, Downer, and Sands attended the examination, accompanied by Mr. Gilbert, clerk of the Board of Education, Mr. L. Hazeltine, of the Normal School, and many others; all seemed pleased with the exercises.

May 27th.

Mr. Phayer held meeting with the children, this morning, and the Rev. Mr. Amblee, of Harlem, preached in the afternoon. Of the Managers, Mr. William Russell attended the morning and afternoon services. Mr. Blacket attended the Sabbath School.

During the past two weeks, quite a number of the girls have manifested a deep interest for their spiritual welfare, and have been under strong exercise of mind. We have taken measures which such manifestations seemed to demand, and we have just grounds for believing, that, a number of them have found an interest in the Saviour! Singing and prayer seem a pleasure to very many of them, and a visible change has taken place in the whole department. Solemnity, and an earnest enquiry after spiritual knowledge prevail—we hope by the aid of Divine Providence to give the matter such direction as may result in much good.

June 1st.

The Executive Committee, Messrs. Kelly, Stevens, and Strong, made their official visit to the house this afternoon.

The Board of Managers held their regular monthly meeting at the house this afternoon.

The Ladies' Committee, Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Krebs, visited the Girls' Department this day.

June 15th.

Mrs. Dodge and Mrs. Nesbit, of the Ladies' Committee, visited the Girls' Department this morning.

Messrs. Stevens and Strong, of the Executive Committee, made their official visit this afternoon.

Mr. Downer, of the School Committee, visited the school this evening.

Messrs. Young, Prichard and Stevens, of the Board of Managers, accompanied by the Finance Committee of the Board of Councilmen, viz.: Messrs. Wandell, Vermilye, Schenck, Mason and Ranney, visited the Institution this afternoon; and examined the House generally, they also made especial enquiry in regard to the expenses of the Institution, and examined the books and accounts in detail. During the evening, they visited the school, where Messrs. Wandell, Ranney and Mason made some very encouraging remarks to the children, who in turn sang a number of pieces to interest them. The Councilmen left, seeming gratified with their visit.

June 28th.

The Hon. M. H. Clark, Governor of the State, accompanied by the Commissioners of Emigration, the Hon. C. C. Leigh, Gen. Hall, and staff, with many other distinguished gentlemen, visited the Institution this day, and seemed pleased with their visit.

June 29th.

Isaac O. Barker, Esq. President of the Board of Aldermen, in company with the Aldermen of the 7th, 9th, and 16th Wards, visited the house this afternoon, and examined the Institution generally.

Mr. Stevens, of the Executive Committee, visited this day—also Mrs. Neefus, of the Ladies' Committee, and examined the house officially.

June 30th.

We, this day, received nine children into the house, from various sources, and indentured two to situations in the country.

July 3rd.

Charles D——n, visited us this day. He was indentured in January 1853, to learn the trade of a carpenter, in New Jersey. He gives a good account of himself, and is a very respectable appearing young man. He states that he is making good progress in his trade and is looking forward to a bright future.

Richard B——c, also visited, and gave very satisfactory evidence of his well-doing and future prospects.

July 4th.

This being Independence day, as is customary, all the work of the shops, &c., ceased, and the day entirely devoted to patriotism.

During the forenoon we had exercises in the chapel, singing and speaking by the children, and addresses by the Hon. Judge Campbell, E. Brooks, of the State Senate, Dr. Tuthill, of the New York Times, and others. Of the Managers, Messrs. Atterbury and Downer, were in attendance with Dr. Watson, and a number of other gentlemen.

The afternoon and evening were spent quite agreeably, by the children, in sports of various kinds—no accident occurred during the day.

July 5th.

The Indenturing Committee, Messrs. Russell and Hussey, made their official visit to the house this day.

July 6th.

The Executive Committee, Messrs. Kelly and Stevens, made their official visit this afternoon.

The Board of Managers held their regular monthly meeting at the house this afternoon.

July 14th.

We received five new subjects this day.

July 29th.

Mr. Barnum addressed the children this morning, and our chaplain, Mr. Horton, preached in the afternoon. Of the Managers, Mr. Atterbury, accompanied by Mr. Hart and Mr. Fanning.

Messrs. Brown, Blacket, and Hamilton visited the Sabbath-Schools this afternoon.

August 3d.

The Executive Committee, Messrs. Young, Stevens and Strong, made their official visit to the house this day.

The Board of Managers held their regular monthly meeting at the house this afternoon.

Six inmates were received into the house this day.

August 11th.

Mr. Barry, agent of the Philadelphia House of Refuge, visited the Institution this morning.

August 28th.

Mr. Lincoln, Superintendent of the Maine State Reform School, visited the house this evening. He staid all night with us in order to give him an opportunity to see the operations of the Institution.

September 7th.

The Executive Committee, Messrs. Young, Stevens and Strong, made their official visit to the house this afternoon.

The Board of Managers held their regular monthly meeting at the house this day.

September 9th.

Mr. Walker held meeting with us this morning and the Chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Horton, addressed the children in the afternoon. Messrs. Hurder and Reede visited the Sabbath Schools, accompanied by Mr. Fowler and other friends, who rewarded the boys with books for compositions. These rewards for written composition and mental improvement have a very good effect, by stimulating the mind to diligence in study.

September 14th.

Joseph A—s, visited the house yesterday. He was indentured out in 1849 and has served out his apprenticeship and is now doing well.

Messrs. Stevens and Young, of the Executive Committee, visited the house this day; also Mr. Downer, of the School Committee.

September 15th.

Ten children were received into the house this day.

September 27th

The Indenturing Committee, Messrs. Russell, Drake and Hoe, made their official visit to the house this day and discharged six inmates to the care of their friends for various causes.

October 6th.

The Executive Committee, Messrs. Stevens and Young, made their official visit to the house this day.

The Board of Managers held their regular monthly meeting at the house this afternoon.

Mr. Royal Phelps, of New York, accompanied by a number of Spanish ladies and gentlemen, visited the house this day.

Messrs. Crolius and Bigelow, Managers of Juvenile Asylum, visited the Institution this afternoon.

Mr. Houlton and Mrs. Sawyer, Superintendent and Matron of the Baltimore House of Refuge, visited the house this day, for the purpose of obtaining such information as may be applicable to their Institution.

October 8th.

The Board of Directors of the House of Industry and Reformation, of the City of Boston, viz.:—Messrs. Dall, Willett, Flint, Condin, Holbrook, Tarbell, Ricker, Kendall, Ropes, Googin and Clark, sheriff of Boston, accompanied by Mr. Phillips, clerk to the Board of

Governors of the New York Alms-House, visited the house this day and expressed themselves gratified with their visit.

October 10th.

Mr. Carbutt and son, ex-Mayor of Leeds, (England,) visited us this day. He expressed himself pleased with the house, and said, they were about to try something of the kind in Leeds.

Justice D. K. Smith, accompanied by a number of the officials of Brooklyn, also visited the house to-day.

Governor Dugro, of the Alms-House, the Wardens of Bellvue Hospital, Randall's Island, accompanied by a number of friends, visited this day.

October 24th.

The School Committee, Messrs. Atterbury, Stillman and Downer, accompanied by Messrs. Randall, McKeen, and Seton, City Superintendents of Common Schools, Mr. C. C. Leigh, of the Board of Managers, Dr. Tuthill and Mr. Stewart, of the *New York Times* and *Tribune*, with many others, visited and examined the Schools this afternoon and evening. The examination gave general satisfaction. Addresses by the Superintendents were very encouraging to the children, who seemed also much interested in the examination.

November 4th.

Mr. Talcot, Superintendent of the Westboro' State Reform School visited this day.

November 6th.

The Rev. D. B. Nichols, Superintendent of the Chicago Asylum, and Reform School, visited the house this day.

November 9th.

Messrs. Atterbury and Downer, of the School Committee, visited to-day. Also, Mrs. Willis and Nefus, of the Ladies' Committee, also, Messrs. Strong and Prichard, of the Executive Committee.

November 23d.

Charles J—s, visited the house this day. He is a fine looking young man. He has been in his situation three years and says he is well pleased with it. The gentleman to whom he is indentured speaks in the highest terms of him, in regard to his character and conduct.

The Executive met this day.

November 29th.

This day having been set apart by the authorities of the State, as a day of thanksgiving and prayer, for the blessings of the past

year, the shops were closed and the work suspended, none having greater cause for thankfulness than the inmates of the Refuge.

During the morning, the children assembled in the Chapel, where the Chaplain appropriately addressed them. The remainder of the day was spent in their sports, and in discussing the refreshments provided by the Managers ; all passed off pleasantly.

Of the Managers, Mr. Strong attended during the day.

Nov. 30th.

The Executive and Ladies' Committees, made their weekly visits this day.

LETTERS

FROM MASTERS, RELATIVE TO CHILDREN WHOSE APPRENTICESHIP HAS NOT YET EXPIRED.

BOYS.

January 4th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: In answer to your circular relative to Wm. M—, I am happy to say that he is still with me and enjoys good health; he is going to school this winter: last summer he attended Sabbath School. He attends Church regularly, and his conduct is such as to receive the approbation of all my neighbors. I think he has improved in every respect and is a very good boy.

E. S.

February 5th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: The boy, Isaac M—, that I took from the House of Refuge, still remains with me and is a very good boy. His health has been good during the past year, and he has grown from the little pale-faced apprentice to a strong, healthy boy. He attends Church and Sabbath School regularly, and during the winter attends the District School and makes good progress in his studies. I have no evil report to make of him.

C. E. M.

July 10th, 1855.

In relation to John J., he has been a good and faithful boy, in consideration whereof, I have given him some encouragement, that I would give him one year of his time, that is to say, if you are willing.

Yours, &c.,

J. A.

September 17th, 1855.

RESPECTED FRIEND: C. G., who was indentured to me from your institution, still continues with me, and is well satisfied. He has made good improvement in his education, having attended school during the past two winters he has been with me. He attends Church and Sunday School, and seems ambitious of future respectability. Should he continue with me until he is of age, I shall do well by him.

E. C. W.

September 13th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: F. W. still remains with me and enjoys good health. He attends Church with my family and I have always found him honest and is as industrious as I could expect. He has not, however, that regard for the truth that I desire, but hope he will improve.

Yours, &c.,

H. J. D.

September 17th, 1855.

Wm. P. continues with my family and has improved in his education and deportment. He attends the Church and seems contented. He is industrious and I am trying to do all I can for him.

J. A. P.

September 15th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: P. M. is still with me. He appears to be honest and is quite industrious. We have no Sabbath School near us, but he attends Church. He seems ambitious, and I think he will make a smart man. I like the boy much, and find him useful to me. I have another boy, John B., (colored,) living with me. He left my employment a few months but returned again and is now doing well.

L. F. R.

September 27, 1855,

DEAR SIR: The boy I received from your institution in 1853, continues with me and is very contented. I have never discovered as yet a dishonest trait in his character—in this regard he is greatly to be commended. He is quite as industrious as boys are generally of his age. He has attended school regularly a portion of the year and has made satisfactory improvement. His Sabbath School Teacher speaks well of him, and he seems quite ambitious of future respectability. I think, with good management, he will make a useful man.

Yours, &c.,

J. H. T.

September 28th, 1855.

SIR: Severious D. is still with us. He is industrious, honest and improves. He regularly attends Sunday School and Church. Last winter he attended District School. He seems to respect himself and endeavors to make himself useful.

R. G. V. D.

September 10th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: Richard is in my employ. He is industrious and honest as any one. He has become a good mechanic and can earn ten or twelve dollars per week. His reputation among his acquaintances is as good as any. I have no doubt of his making a respectable man.

W. B.

September 25th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: John W. is with us yet, he is a good boy, very industrious and honest; I am very much pleased with him and shall do all I can to promote his interest.

Yours, &c., E. F. R.

September 8th, 1855.

RESPECTED FRIEND: The boy George, about whom you inquire, is well. He is a fair boy, and I have no reason to think him dishonest; he has a good prospect for the future.

A. L.

September 13th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: Yours of September 1st, has been received. M. R. is with us and is industrious and honest. He attends Church and Sabbath School, and so far as I can judge, aims to be useful.

A. C. H.

September 5th, 1855.

SIR: Andrew is still with us and doing well.

T. B.

September 15th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: J. W. S. remains with us. He is a good boy, attends School, and improves, &c.

A. V. H.

September 6th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: The conduct of J. M., with few exceptions, has been good, and he seems disposed to make himself useful, &c., &c.

C. E. M.

September 10th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: It is with pleasure that I inform you of the good conduct of A. P. He is in all respects a fine boy. He attends the Sabbath Schools and loves it. He is honest and seems to take pride in it. He is industrious and I am pleased with it. His prospects for making a useful man are good. I feel that you are engaged in an excellent work and wish you great success.

Yours, &c., &c., W. N.

September 12th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: J. R. is with me and is a very good boy; I am pleased with him.

G. B. G.

September 8th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: James T. takes much interest in all my business. He is a well disposed boy and does well.

J. K.

September 12th, 1855.

SIR: James M. seems to be perfectly satisfied with his situation. He has become a Sabbath School teacher and is a very ambitious lad.

Yours, &c., J. W. D.

September 2d, 1855.

DEAR SIR: John A. is with me and is a very good boy. He attends to his duties well.

W. H. C.

September 17th, 1855.

MY DEAR SIR: John L. is one of the best natured little boys in our place; he is a good boy and I am pleased with him. If I am not mistaken, he will make a lively man.

Yours, &c., E. H.

September 18th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: John McG. is in my family yet and is a well behaved boy, and I am pleased with him.

J. M.

September 17th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: R. R. is an honest boy and is doing well.

J. S.

September 16th, 1855

DEAR SIR: C. A. W. still remains with me. He is industrious and honest and has made some progress in his education.

A. D.

September 15th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: I am very much pleased with William. He is doing well.

A. J. S.

September 11th, 1855.

SIR: Thomas B. is a very good boy. He is fond of reading and improves. He is very trusty and industrious.

Yours, &c., D. S. G.

September 22d, 1855.

RESPECTED FRIEND: I have no fault to find with W. J. C., he is honest and attends Church and School regularly. Bids fair to do well.

J. G.

September 17th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: John B. still continues with me. He is a fair boy and has improved.

Yours, &c., G. J.

LETTERS FROM MASTERS OF GIRLS.

June 3d, 1855.

DEAR SIR: G. O., the girl from your institution, suits me very well. She seems very happy and contented. We shall do all we can to make her respectable and useful.

A. P.

September 5th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: In reply to your note, I am happy to inform you, that M. F. is a very respectable, well behaved girl, always good tempered and respectful. We hope and trust she will when she is grown, make a respectable member of society.

J. B.

September 15th, 1855.

SIR: R. B. still continues with us. She is honest and industrious, and very much improved in her education and manners. She has a strong desire to become useful and respectable. I will do all in my power to obtain such a result.

A. S. V.

September 17th, 1855.

TO THE MANAGERS, &c.: The girl I took from your care, M. C., is a good, honest, industrious girl. She attends Church and Sabbath School. We place the utmost confidence in her, and hope she will make a good woman. Her health is excellent. When her time expires, we shall hire her if she will stay with us. This is the third girl I have had from you and they have all done well and are all now very respectable women.

Yours, &c.,

J. S.

September 29th, 1855.

SIR: Mary is still with me and behaves very well.

V. R.

September 29th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: B. R. is still with the family. She is industrious and honest. She has improved in knowledge and seems contented. She regularly attends Church and Sabbath School and is anxious to do well.

Yours, &c.,

G. M.

September 19th, 1855.

SIR: I write to you relative to the girl, Margaret. She still continues with me and proves to be a very good girl, being very industrious and honest. She attends Church and seems quite anxious to be respected.

Yours, &c.,

P. S. F.

September 11th, 1855.

SIR: I write to inform you, that Harriet G. is with me still and has improved very much. She is a modest and very industrious girl. She attends Church and Sabbath School and seems cheerful and happy.

Respectfully, yours,

E. S.

November 12th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: The girl, M. W., that was indentured to us two years and a-half since, still continues in our family. She has made good improvement and is doing well.

Yours, &c.,

M. A. D.

LETTERS FROM BOYS.

July 1st, 1855.

DEAR SIR: I now write to inform you that I am well and have been ever since I left the Refuge. I feel anxious to express my gratefulness to you for all the kindness and instruction you gave me while I was under your care. I trust you will not be discouraged but continue to advise and instruct those you now have with you, that they may become good and wise men. Since I left you I have been trying to do as well as I know how and hope when my time is out and I am twenty-one, I may be able to help myself.

Yours, very respectfully,

LEWIS R.

April 15th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: It is some time since I left the Refuge, so I thought you would like to hear from me. I am well and still continue with my "boss" and like my place very much; the family all treat me very kindly. I have been in the country over two years and like it well. I have been to school two winters and tried to learn all I could, but our spring work has commenced and now I only go to Sabbath School, which I like. I have obtained a bible for my recitations and good conduct. When I retire to my bed I do not forget to ask God to watch over me. I attend the church regularly and I wish you would tell the boys for me, not to forget to pray to God when they retire for His protection and blessing. Please write to me soon.

Yours, &c.,

W. A.

November 10th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: I write to let you know that I enjoy pretty good health, and that I am very well satisfied with my situation. I am pleased with the people I am with, and I attend school. I like this part of the country much, and I have no complaint to make only that I feel a little lonesome. You will please to give my love to all the teachers in the Refuge and write to me soon.

Yours, respectfully, P. McC.

September 1st, 1855.

SIR. I have been in my place over a year and I am pleased with it. I like the country much better than the city; tell the boys the country is the place for them, &c. &c.

Yours, &c. J. M.

March 1st, 1855.

DEAR SIR: I have written these few lines to let you know that I am well and like my place and the family where I am, very well. I intend to do as well as I can.

Yours, &c., G. C.

January 8th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: I improve the leisure I now have to inform you that I am in good health and doing well; I can say, it was well for me that I was put in the Refuge: you, my dear Sir, have been a father to me and I feel thankful to you for it. Please to give my love to all the boys.

Yours, most truly, J. C.

March 1855.

DEAR BOYS OF THE HOUSE OF REFUGE: I am induced to write you a few lines and it is the first letter I ever wrote, so I thought my first ought to be to those I left behind. I came in the country in the fall of 1853, and in consequence of some misconduct I did not go to school the first winter; I tried to do better and have been going to school the last winter every day, and I tried to improve every moment of my time while there; my teachers said I had done well in all my studies. I am learning to be a farmer and our principal work commences in the spring, so I do not go to school now, but shall next winter. If ever you get as good a home in the country as I have, you ought to be thankful for it, and I hope you will try to do well as I design to wherever you go.

Yours, &c. R. R.

LETTERS FROM GIRLS.

November, 1855.

DEAR SIR: I take this opportunity of writing you these few lines, to let you know that I have a good home, the lady is as kind to me as my mother used to be, and she treats me like one of her own children. I am well pleased out here. Will you please to give my love to Mrs. Osgood, all the matrons and teachers, and especially to the girls.

Yours, respectfully, E. C.

March, 1855.

SIR: My time expires on the 25th day of next month and then I thought I would come to the city; I should like to have your advice in regard to it. I am pleased with the place where I am, and have a good home. I would continue here if I thought it would be best for me; write and give me your opinion. I have not forgotten the ladies of the Refuge and I wish you to give my love to them. Please to tell the girls that I often think of them, I hope they may soon obtain good situations and do well.

Yours, &c. C. A. A.

June, 1855.

MY DEAR FRIENDS: I write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along. I like the parties with whom I live very much, the work is not hard. I know I have done wrong and I feel that I have done so long enough, and by the help of the Lord I intend to stop doing wrong; I know that if I ask Him, He will help me and I shall be much happier. I have not forgotten the religious instruction you gave me that I received while in the Refuge, and I hope I never shall. Give my love to the matrons and all the girls.

Yours, &c., L. A. S.

LETTERS

FROM MASTERS OF CHILDREN WHOSE APPRENTICESHIP HAS EXPIRED.

September 26th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: You will remember (by reference to your books) the girl E. W. who was transferred to me from the House of Refuge in New York, some eight years since; it was a bright day in her calendar when the deed was done, for she has been ever since a member of my family and also a member of the church to which I am attached. She refused to leave me when she became of age, and her indentures ceased to be binding and would not leave now only for the fact that she is to be married, and this is reason enough, perhaps you will say.

Yours, &c., J. B.

September, 1855.

DEAR SIR: M. C. Y's. time has expired and she has left me and is now in S—— doing well. While she was with me, she became a member of the Dutch Reformed Church and a regular attendant of the Sabbath School. She seemed ambitious of future respectability and I think she will do well.

Yours, truly, J. B. B.

September, 1855.

SIR: M. A. B's. time expired last February; she, however, desired to stay with me and we were glad to have her remain in our family, as she has not only gained our affections but of all those who know her. She sends her respects to you and thanks you for your kindness to her while in the Refuge, and requests that you will not inform her friends where she is, as it might not be as well for her. She is happy and contented.

Yours, &c., G. H. R.

September 8th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: J. D., the girl that was indentured to me from your institution, staid her time out and was an excellent girl; she was honest and ambitious to do well and became well skilled in household affairs. After her time

expired she went to New York to live with her father. I received a letter from her stating that she was living at home and enjoying good health. I never saw anything amiss in her while she was with me; I wish I could get as good a girl this fall.

Yours, &c., D. J. W.

November 12th, 1855.

DEAR SIR: You are aware that we have had three children from the Refuge. This will inform you that one of them still remains with us; the other two have served out their apprenticeship and are now in the neighborhood doing well; they obtain good wages and are quite respectable and creditable members of society, &c.

Yours, respectfully, M. A. D.